

## What is the CLASS™ Tool?

The Classroom Assessment Scoring System™ (CLASS™) is an observational tool that provides a common lens and language focused on what matters—the classroom interactions that boost student learning.

Data from CLASS™ observations are used to support teachers' unique professional development needs, set school-wide goals, and shape system-wide reform at the local, state, and national levels.

Based on research from the University of Virginia's Curry School of Education and studied in thousands of classrooms nationwide, the CLASS™ tool

- focuses on effective teaching
- helps teachers recognize and understand the power of their interactions with students
- aligns with professional development tools
- works across age levels and subjects

The CLASS™ tool works. CLASS™-based professional development tools increase teacher effectiveness—and students in classrooms with higher CLASS™ scores achieve at higher levels than their peers in classrooms with lower CLASS™ scores.

## CLASS™ Observations

CLASS™ Observations break down the complex classroom environment to help educators focus on boosting the effectiveness of their interactions with learners of all ages. Observations rely on categorizing interactions within the CLASS™ framework.

### Domains

The CLASS™ tool organizes teacher-student interactions into three broad domains:

- Emotional Support
- Classroom Organization
- Instructional Support

### Dimensions

Within each of these domains, interactions are further organized into multiple dimensions. Dimension examples include:

Positive Climate—focuses on how teachers interact with children to develop warm relationships that promote children's enjoyment of the classroom community.

Concept Development—focuses on how teachers interact with children to promote higher-order thinking and cognition.

### Observing Classrooms

Trained and certified CLASS™ observers visit classrooms, recording observations and assigning numerical codes related to each of the CLASS™ dimensions. The CLASS™ codes provide a snapshot of the classroom interactions that are working well along with areas for growth. Studies in thousands of classrooms show that students achieve at higher levels in classrooms with higher CLASS™ codes. CLASS™-based professional development is designed to help teachers build on their strengths, grow professionally, and increase the effectiveness of their interactions with students.